



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501
HELENA MT 59620-2501
www.opi.state.mt.us
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

January 2003

Dear Colleague:

February, "I Love to Read" month, and Dr. Suess's Birthday celebration on March 3, will be here before we know it. To foster the love of reading, a calendar of daily activities and a page of suggested ideas to celebrate reading and Dr. Suess's Birthday are included with this fax.

Use your "I Love To Read" program as a starting point to encourage student reading all year long. Arrange regular times when students can read what they choose to read. Such opportunities help students develop into enthusiastic, active, engaged readers who read both for pleasure and information.

Better yet, make the month truly special by adopting a theme to promote literacy. Include the whole community by writing letters to your local officials requesting a proclamation of "I Love to Read Month." Enlist a host of community leaders and athletes to read to students as part of a campaign to demonstrate the importance of reading. Try to get radio or television news coverage of various activities connected with your campaign. Be sure to include your school and public librarians.

Promote family literacy. Compile a calendar of community reading events to share with parents. Encourage parents to pledge to put aside one evening per week for reading. You might invite parents to come to school and sign a huge wall poster emblazoned with your theme/logo. The poster will serve as a public commitment to reading.

February has many dates and birthdays to explore. Some dates to remember are: American History Month, Afro-American History Month, February 2, Ground Hog Day, February 13, Anniversary of the opening of the first public school in America, February 14, Valentine's Day, and February 19, President's Day. Plan a birthday party around the famous people born during this month. To honor our famous people and events plan research projects, read and write stories, prepare skits and readers theatre to perform, or hold an assembly.

Help students foster the belief that reading is worthwhile. Join with us in celebrating February as reading month and Dr. Suess's Birthday on March 3. Ideas for Dr. Suess's celebration can be found at www.nea.org/readacross. Please share with us some of the ways in which you celebrate reading. Your comments on the "I Love to Read" activities will be appreciated.

Happy reading,

June Atkins
Literacy Specialist

